



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,491	12/10/2003	Thomas Giovinnazzi		4636

7590 11/03/2006

James G. O'Boyle, Esq.
Brady, O'Boyle & Gates
711 Chevy Chase Building
5530 Wisconsin Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

EXAMINER

WOOD, KIMBERLY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3632

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/731,491

Applicant(s)

GIOVINAZZI, THOMAS

Examiner

Kimberly T. Wood

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3632

This is an office action for serial number 10/731,491, entitled A securing Bracket For A Floor Supported Laundry Appliance, in response to amendment filed on July 25, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

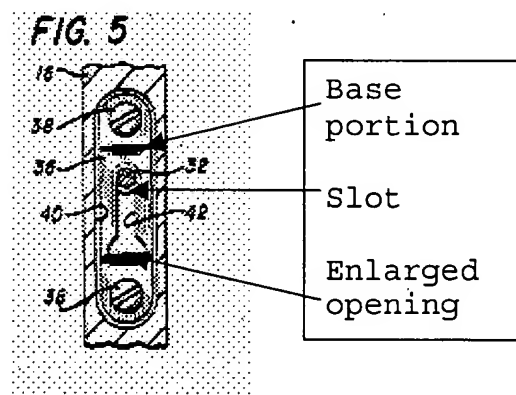
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams 5,954,307 in view of Linger 4,093,327 in further view of Verdesca 4,270,821. Williams discloses a securing bracket being an angle iron having a base portion (38) and a vertical arm (44) and floor supported object (10), a shock absorber means (32), an aperture (78) in the vertical arm (44) for tool access. Williams discloses all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for the laundry appliance and a fastener means. Linger teaches that it is known to have a laundry appliance wherein the legs are casters. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have

Art Unit: 3632

modified Williams to have the wheeled castored object as a laundry appliance in order to prevent the laundry object from sliding or moving from a wall. Verdesca teaches that it is known to have a securing bracket comprising an angle iron (figures 5 and 6) having a base portion having an enlarged opening and a vertical arm having a slot communicating with the enlarged opening to receive a lag screw (32) protruding from a wall (46). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified Williams in view of Linger to have included the lag screw to extend through the vertical arm of the angle iron including a slot and enlarged opening wherein the screw extends into the wall as taught by Verdesca for the purpose of providing a better securing means to the bracket therefore preventing accidental removal from the wall.



Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-10 allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 25, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant indicated that Claim 3 amended to include the limitations of claim 10 would be allowable however the examiner never indicated that this type of amendment would be allowable. The office action of January 23, 2006 the examiner stated that claim 10 would be allowable if claim 10 were rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 4) and any intervening claims (claims 5 and 9) resulting in claims 4, 5, 9, and 10 being combined making the claim allowable. The applicant has submitted the amendment with just claim 3 combined with claim 10 therefore the present claim 3 was never previously indicated as allowable and has been rejected.

In response to the applicant's alleged assumption that the examiner stated that Verdesca can not be combined with Williams and Linger, this statement is herein traversed. The examiner only indicated (see interview summary of April 11, 2006) that when the applicant submitted the amended claims combining claims 3 and 4 or claims 3 and 6 would be allowable. It is not believed that the examiner ever stated that Verdesca could not be combined with Williams and Linger to reject the limitations of claim 3 therefore, the previous rejection of claim 3

Art Unit: 3632

(Williams, Linger, and Verdesca) which has been amended will stand.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, it is well known in the art to provide an elongated opening communicating with a slot to secure angled brackets to a wall.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this

Art Unit: 3632

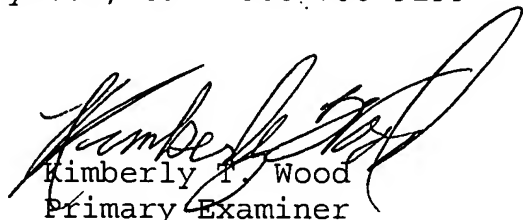
action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly T. Wood whose telephone number is 571-272-6826. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on 571-272-6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3632

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Kimberly T. Wood
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

October 30, 2006